

"Living in the River"  
John 7:1-52

"Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation." Isaiah 12:3

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds – like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea." Ezekiel 47:9-10

"The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in – a river that no one could cross." Ezekiel 47:1-5

Four stages in our walk with God:

1. Give me stage – ankle deep
2. Use me stage – knee deep
3. Make me stage – waist deep
4. Know me stage – swimming deep

Principles of the river of God:

1. We need the power of the river of God in our lives.
2. We need to know the source of the river.

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb." Revelation 22:1

3. We must understand the benefits of the river.

Out of Jesus flows:

1. Rivers of worship and praise

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues." Acts 2:4, 11

2. Rivers of witnessing

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

"When the advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning." John 15:26, 27

3. Rivers of ministry

"And these signs will accompany those who believe; In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." Mark 16:17, 18

4. Rivers of gifts by the Holy Spirit

"All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines." 1 Corinthians 12:11

5. Rivers of intercession and prayer

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God." Romans 8:26, 27

6. Rivers of fruitfulness

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22, 23

7. Rivers of peace and strength

"There is a river whose streams make us glad." Psalms 46:4

"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself." 1 Corinthians 14:4

8. Rivers of revelation

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people." Ephesians 1:18

4. We need to know the way into the river.

How can I get into the river?

1. Seek after God

"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the riches of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me." Psalms 63:1-8

2. Step into the waters

How can I step into the waters?

1. With humility

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Matthew 23:12

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalms 34:18

2. With flexibility

"The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" They asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise." Matthew 21:14-16

3. With fullness

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." Acts 10:44-46

4. With faith

"Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage, it is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said." Matthew 14:25-29

"When the people saw the thunder and lighting and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance. The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was." Exodus 20:18, 21

**"Lord, flow forth fresh watercourses of Holy Spirit fullness and power in my life.**

**Let the flow bear me forward. I don't want to become a stagnant pool of former blessing, but a rising river of fresh inspiration.**

**Let the rivers run deep. I don't want to be shallow in any part of my life. Let the sandbar of carnal obstruction in my nature be furrowed out by the force of the stream.**

**Let me learn to flow together with other believers, as streams become tributaries to a larger river. Let any smallness become lost in my surrender to Your Spirit's blending me with all those who love You in truth. Let me move in the unity of Jesus' life and love.**

**Let me be a channel.**

**In a world where the blind and the bound seek "spirit channels" to touch the realm of the supernatural, and thereby only become more confused, let me be a pure channel of Holy Spirit life and truth. Let me bring the wholeness of who You really are, in Jesus' name.**

**Come, Holy Spirit... as rivers of living water."**